

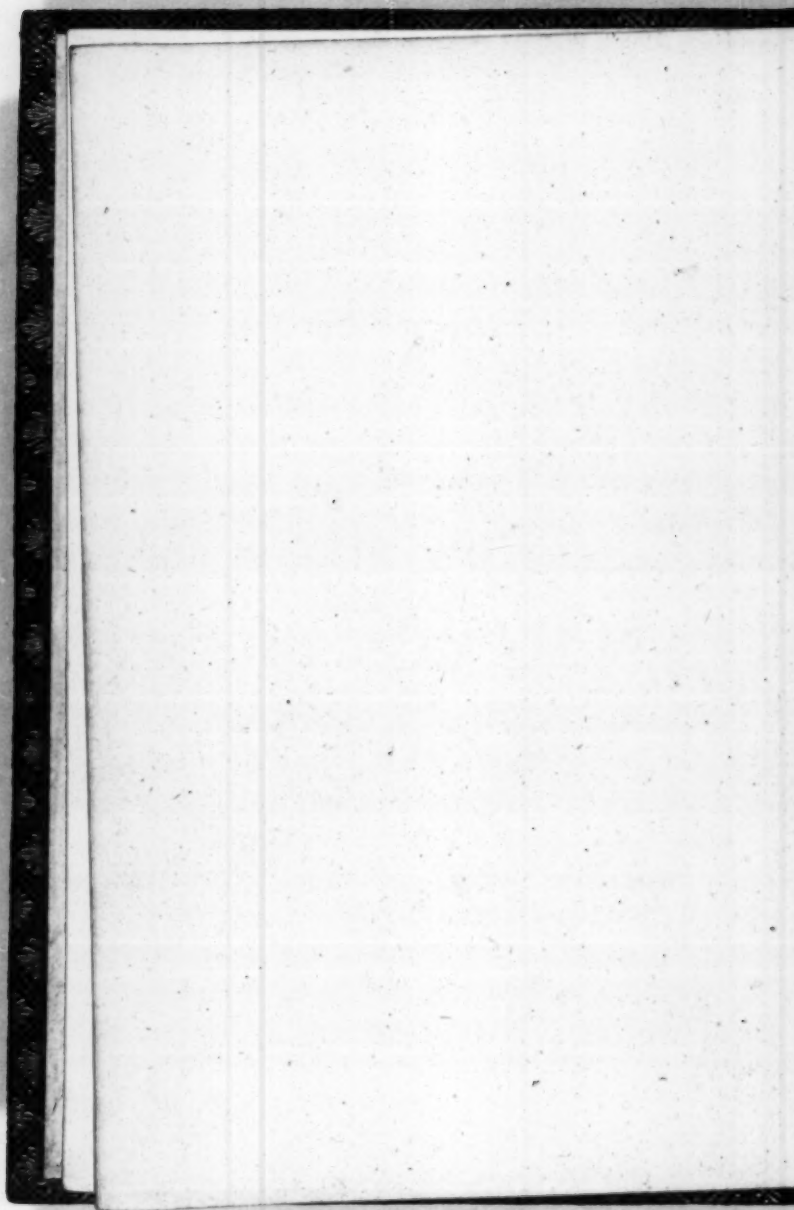
**THE**  
*Excellent Historye of Theseus*  
*and Ariadne.*

**Wherein is Declared her seru-  
ment loue to hym: and his Tray-  
terous dealyngs towarde her:  
Written in English Meter  
in Cōmendacion of all  
good women: and  
to the Infamie  
of suche lyght Huswyes as Phoe-  
dra the sister of Ariadne was:  
which fled away w<sup>th</sup> The-  
seus her Sifters Hus-  
bande: as is Decla-  
red in this  
History.**

By Thomas Vnderdowne.

¶ Imprinted at London by Rycharde Iohnes:  
and are to be sold at his Shop, toyng  
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1566, 28. of Januarie.



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# The Preface to

the Reader.



*Eynge the pricke where*  
vnto the Lyns of oure lyfe  
gyderb vs, is knowledg of  
thynges wherof we are ig-  
nozant: & that of all know-  
ledges, none is moze estima-  
ble oꝝ woꝛthy foꝝ those that  
acknowledge them selues by the names of  
men, then the Science of the Natures and  
qualyties of thynges: and of Natures, the  
best & moſte excellent is the acquaintaunce  
w<sup>th</sup> b<sup>e</sup> Hanking, and knowledge of his con-  
ditions. I haue thought it good (gentell  
Reader) to ſet befoze thyne eyes *Thiſtoꝛie*  
of *Theseus* & *Ariadne*: the whiche, though  
the Style and Metre be to baſe foꝝ ſo per-  
fyte a *Paterne* of ſo many thynges: yet by  
the perſwaſions & earneſt request of diuers  
and thoſe my verye frendes, I haue gyuen  
it thee: wherin thou maiſt beholde, as in a  
Glaſſe almoſte all maner of dealynges foꝝ  
ſundꝝ kyndes of purpoſes. As if thou ſeek  
foꝝ true loue, looke vpon *Ariadne*: who ad-  
uētured her ſame, body & goods to go w<sup>th</sup>  
*Theseus*. If thou ſeek foꝝ good counſell,  
A.ii. howe

To the Reader.

holwe to eschewe the blasynge bandes of  
the fyerve flames of loue, see Phedra. If  
Crasse, Dissimulacion, Versidye, Vertu-  
rye, or forgetfulnes of good turnes; behold  
Theleus. If thou craue an Example of vn  
naturall lust, lechery: or as I mought say,  
incest: let Phedra come befoze thyne eyes:  
who hauynge no respect to honestie, fame,  
ire of the Goddes, nor kynred: entyse a the  
vncōstant Theleus to forsake her Sister,  
and loue her. Certaynly in that she was a  
woman, she deserved pardon: but in that  
shee was a Sister, shee deserved perpetuall  
ignomye and euerlastynge shame & dis-  
honour. And seynge the Sister maye not  
truste her Sister, sithe bothe came oute of  
one belge, and sucked of one pappes: what  
other wyll be so mad, or so muche without  
reason as to trust a woman: whose dis-  
onest partes haue hitherto, and yet do so pro-  
perlye playe their Pageantes, as no tonge  
can tell, no Pen can wyte, nor any barte  
comprehende: I wyll not that any honest  
and vertuous Woman be touched with  
that I mynde to saye: but they onely who  
in readynge hereof, shall by any meanes  
fynde them selues agreened. And I wyll  
touche no poynt, but onely Beautie.

## To the Reader.

For yf I shoulde saye, what I haue scene,  
reade and harde, a yeaere were to lytell to  
tell of their trickes.

Assuredly, he that despyzeth a fayre woman  
armeth him selfe to a right great and dan-  
gerous aduenture: and why: a fayre wo-  
man is nothyng but a galyng stocke of  
ydell folkes: an earelye wakynge for them  
that bee lyghte: and she that is desired for  
her Beautie in her youthe, maye hope too  
haue but a sozpe lyfe in her age.

An infallible Rule it is, that shee that is  
desyzed for her fayrenesse, is hated for her  
sowlennesse: and Beautie of trouthe is not  
perpetuall, but sadeth as the flowers and  
greene grasse. Also he that hathe a fayre  
woman must suffre her pryde: for Beautie  
and Pryde go alwaye together. Also hee  
must suffre her expences: for beantie in the  
face, and folpe in the head, be two wormes  
that fret the lyfe, and consume the goodes.  
Also hee must suffre her wytes: for a faire  
woman wyll, that none but shee haue her  
commandementes in the howse.

Also hee must suffre her nyce Opynions:  
for a fayre woman wyll passe her time  
in pleasures. Also hee must suffre  
her Presumption: for euery fyne and

*to the Reader*

sayre womā wyl haue pzeeminence befoze  
all other: & at a worde, he that hath a sayre  
woman is appareld with as great peryll  
as euer was Cartha with Scipio, Ierusa-  
lem with Titus, or Rome with Vjennus:  
No man complayneth that the Goddes a-  
mong his destenies haue giuen him a soule  
wife: let every man chuse as him lyst. The  
noble Arminius of Carthage for the space  
of fourescore yeres wherin he ruled the co-  
mon wealth there, was as straunge to wo-  
men, as samplar to his Bookes. And this  
age passed, his frendes desired him instant-  
lye to take a wyfe, that the memozye of so  
perfyte a wyse man might remayne to the  
posteritye: and the more earnest they were,  
the more he resisted & sayd: If she be folwe,  
I shall abboze her: if she be sayre, I must  
take hede to her: if she be ryche, I must suf-  
fer her: if she be pooze, I must mayntayne  
her: if she be a shyew, I can not forbere her:  
and the least plague of these is sufficient to  
slaye a .M. men. But let vs see how they of  
olde tyme passed their dayes, & let vs con-  
sider whither the Grafts that were slipped  
from these trees, be any whyt degenerated  
from the olde stocke. Myrrha lay with her  
father. Byblys caused her brother Caninus

## To the Reader

for vnjuste and vnnaturall lust to be ban-  
shed. Medea slewe her Brother Absyrtus,  
therby to scape her fathers danger: & solow  
Jason into Grece: and this our Medea left  
her sister in a vast forest a pray to the fierce  
and cruel Beastes, and ran away with her  
Husbande. I speake not of any light fault,  
but of such, wherby the sawties haue got-  
ten them no lesse reproch in their time, the  
shame with vs by beyng Examples of so  
filthy factes. As for those that lyue now  
with vs I feare me, they shalbe as yll repo-  
ted of tyme to come, as they be hated now  
with wise and auncient men: their looks  
be so loftie, their gate so stately, their appa-  
rell so disguised, their courage so haughty,  
that you may muse to here of their maners  
gestures and behauiours; no lesse then they  
were Monsters, or thinges wherin Nature  
eyther had erred, or woulde not shewe her  
force. And where in time passed, all that  
was done otherwys then honestie permit-  
ted was done very secretly. Now (I know  
no cause why) they that be dysfamed do as  
much reioyce in their naughtines, as they  
aforetime were ashamed of their misdeedes:  
I can alledge no reason why such thinges  
shoulde come to passe now, rather then in

to the Reader.

tymes passe: but that oure women lyue  
so ydellye, that they eschewe all honeste  
laboure, and wholly addicte them selues  
to vnhonest ydlenesse. For this is certaine:  
where the handes is occupied: there, the  
harte muste needes do somwhat: and if I  
saye not true, let any man alleadge when  
euer there were moe ydell Women in the  
whole worlde, then is nowe in the small  
Circuit of Englande. I reade, howe di-  
uers haue ben comended for keepynge them  
selues close in their howses, vsynge them  
selues discretelye with compaigne: mode-  
ratellye with their howsholde: decentlye  
with their husbandes. But neuer was  
any lauded, for leadyng of an ydell lyfe.  
You ydle Dames whersoener you be, tell  
me I praye you: what was the cause that  
Penelope was so muche honoured in her  
tyme, and left eternal memozie of her good  
renowne to vs after her death? What  
trade of lyfe led shee when Ulysses was at  
the Siege of Troie: shee beyng a Quene  
dyd paynfulllye spyn and keepe her howse,  
and so; all the knot of gentell Woiers that  
she had, she neuer left her worke to dallye  
and toye with them, thonghe her husband  
were alwaye .xx. yeares: What dyd the  
wicked

## To the Reader.

Wicked Torquyne fynde the good Ladye  
Lucres doyng when he came to ransome  
her : If ye knowe not (O ye amozons La-  
dyes to you I speake) I wyll tell you : she  
sat spynnyng with her Maydes : and beyng  
desoloyed : she neither gaue Torquyne  
thanks for his good wyll , nor reward for  
his paynes , but slewe her selfe , because her  
Husbandes bedde was despyled . Let these  
to Ladies be Examplis , to you (O ye La-  
dyes enamozous ) howe you shall occupye  
your selues in your Holwes : they were no  
vyle women , for the firste was Quene of  
Athaca , thother a Consuls wyfe of Rome.  
But I suppose you cannot alway with spin-  
nyng , for that vtterly taketh alwaye all  
vayne thoughtes , and occupyeth the minde  
with honeste studeys : for all the Senses be  
moued by it : the eyes with seeng that the  
thynde be well twyned : the eares with hea-  
ryng the sownde of the wheele : the hands  
with turnyng it aboute , so that no place is  
voyde of doing somwhat : wherby no pl can  
rary or raigne in y hart : thus much I haue  
said because Ariadnes idlenes caused al her  
griefe : for if she had not be idle , she had not  
gone out of her chamber : if she had not gon  
out of her chamber , she had not come to the



To the Reader.

Labyrinth wherein Theseus was: If shee had not gone to the Labyrinth, she hadde not had his complaint: if she had not had his complaint, she had not loued him: if she had not loued him, she had ben safe fro the chaunce whiche happened to her: as in the Hystoꝝye shalbe declared. Polenes is therfore the ground of all vice, & ouerthroweth quyte all the foundattons of Vertue. But as I hau2 said of these two, I might speake of many mo: but this is ynough if it be wel vnderstanded. But to leaue this, and come to the Hystoꝝye agayne, from the whiche I haue a lytle dygressed: if thou looke for an example of paynfulnes, take them all, and thynke with howe great paines they slewe and subdued the fel Monster Wyndaurus: If thou desire to here of vnmerecyfulnes of Parents, cast thou eyes to Theseus, who lost his father Ogeus through his default. But because it is but lytle touched in this Hystoꝝye, I wyl pꝛetermyt that: If myserye, call to mynde Arpadne left in the wilderness: and to be shꝛt of all unhappynes let her be a Paterne. I might apply eche of these to diuers other comen places: but the I should make my Entry greater then my whole Booke. I wyl therfore leue the rest  
to be



## To the Reader.

to be scanned of thee (gentle Reader) & if  
thou perceine that this is welcome to thee,  
hereafter as occasion shall serue, thou shalt  
encourage me to do the moze: Thus ho-  
pyng that thou wilt take in good parte  
whatsoever is said herein, I byd thee saye  
well: desirynge thee if oughte bee amysse,  
frendlye to correcte it, or gentlye to admo-  
nyshe mee therof. Fare well.

## A Rule for Women to brynge vp their Daughters.

**Y**e Mothers that your Daughters wyll  
brynge vp and nurture well:  
These Rules do keepe, & them obserue,  
Whiche I shall here nowe tell.

**I**f they wyll go or gad abroad,  
their legges let broken bee:  
Put out their eyes if they wyll looke  
or gaze vndecentlye.

## A Rule for women

**E**lf they their eares wyll gyue to hark  
what other men do saye:  
Stoppe them vp quyte, if gene oꝝ take,  
then cut their handes awaye.

**E**lf they dare lyghtly vse to talke,  
their lippes together sowe:  
If they wyll ought lyghtly entende,  
lette Gasse vpon them growe.

**A**nd at a woꝝde, if she be yll,  
let her yll aunswers haue:  
And soꝝ her dowꝛ gene sharpe woꝝdes  
and soꝝ her house a graue.

**T**herfoꝛe ye Mothers, if ye vse  
and kepe my Rules in mynde:  
Daughters you shall haue none at all,  
oꝝ those of Phenix kynde.

**E**nds.

**The Historie of Theseus  
and Ariadne.**

**T**here dwelt somtyme in Crete a kyng,  
that mightie Minos bight:  
Who had to wife Pasiphae,  
a passyng wylfe wight,  
This carefull Quene bewayled soze,  
her husbandes absence longer:  
She did lament with pensiue thought,  
her iniurie and wronge.  
And mooste soz that dame Venus spoze,  
she wanted sucbe a space:  
There was no man in all her Court,  
that could deserue her grace.  
They were eche one to base of bloud,  
oz of to lowe degree:  
As that they might obtayne oz haue  
so peerelesse a Ladie.  
And why? she did mutche moze esteeme  
her honour and her samre:  
Then that she list to basard them,  
with sutche reproche and shame.  
Thus did therfoze her bzyng bzeast,  
inuent to put in bze:  
Least that her ardent secreete flames,  
shuld not be kept in sure.

**A Colwe**

*and Ariadne.*

A Colwe of wodde so2 to be made,  
shee did therfore deuise:  
Compacte with connyng handycrafte,  
and persite Artifice.  
For Dedalus the Carpenter,  
did frament in sutch a sozte:  
As it once seene, you would in dede,  
a very Colwe reporte.  
For it one were within the wood,  
the gynnes were trimmed so,  
That if they were pluckt aright,  
the Colwe would walke o2 go:  
This wo2ke when it was finished,  
the quene so2 her solace,  
would oftymes get into the same,  
and sitte in it a space.  
Tyl that the Gynnes she could once turne  
and rule them as she lyst:  
Then she to wo2ke her wanton wyll,  
begyns as she thynkes best.  
Sometymes she goes, somtymes she ronnes  
sometymes she lyeth styll:  
And finally she doth erche thyng,  
that pleases her wicked wyll.  
Then smellynge oymments doth she take  
and doth annoynt this Colwe:  
For to prouoke the boysterous Bull,  
as women knowe well howe.

**This**

## *Theseus*

This done she goeth into the same,  
the Bull also is brought:  
And there betwixt the Bull and Cowe  
is pretie pastime wrought.  
Pasiphae thus hath her wyll,  
except I be beguyld:

Soone after this congresse was done,  
the Quene was sounde with childe,  
Shortly after, the kynge retournde  
and did lye by this quene,  
And she was great of kynge and Bull,  
at once, as then was seene.

For when she should be brought to bed,  
came forth a Monster fell:

That had both shape of man and beast  
as aunient Stories tell.

The Fame of this deformed Beast  
harde Countreies neate and farre,  
And so; bycause two soymes he had,  
men called him Minotare.

This surpous Feende, this hungry thing  
would eate nought els but men,

Wherfore from all the sorpe Landes,  
that Pynes conquerd then.

There cometh many men by lotte,  
this hungry Beast to fede,

And be we they speede so; to reberse,  
whys it is no neede.

*Theſeus*

Till at the laſt noble Theſeus,  
Good king Egeus ſonne:  
Who for his ſake from Turrets top,  
In ſea headlong did runne,  
Came into Crete to Labyrinth,  
Wherin this monſter was:  
There for to ende his gl'orious lyfe,  
from wealth to wee to paſſe:  
Wher he once put with clamours huge,  
gan to extoll his crye:  
Betwaxing muche his ſatall fall,  
and preſent myſerpe.  
With theſe, or other ſuche lyke wordes,  
he did begin his mone:  
Salted with ſighes and bytter teares,  
he was ſo woe begone.  
What do awayle my warlyke promiſſe,  
my ſtrength and bawtie hart:  
They can not in this ſeoberdye,  
at all releaſe my ſmarte.  
Ab wretche full of calamitie,  
alas what hap haue I:  
In Crete thus in the Labyrinth,  
in pryſon ſtronge to dye.  
Why dyd I not ſubmytte my ſelfe,  
to Tygres ſicrage?  
Or ramppinge Lyons daggunge teeth,  
or enemies cruelle.

and Ariadne.

Why dyd not Ghaunts me subduer  
O: Olues in wyldernes:  
O: Serpentes syng in tyme tofore,  
ryd me from this distresse.  
Why dydst not thou Hippolyte,  
thyne ennemis ouerthrowe:  
Why hys now to in extremite,  
in myserie and wo:  
Why dydst thou not threheaded Dog,  
thou Porter of Hell gate:  
Destrope me quite, when I did thee  
so cruell ye assaunte:  
Why dyd I not some payson take,  
to ryd me of my lyfe:  
Why dyd not cruell dynt of sword,  
stunt all this hateful strife:  
O: all ye Gods that all thyngs gyde,  
whom men do gentell call:  
Why do ye not pety my grieve,  
and rapse me from this fall.  
Remember me whom ye haue made,  
a kynges sonne lo I am:  
In warlike force and hardines,  
surmountynge enery man.  
In flower of yowthe without rebelle,  
O: cruell Destense:  
Do lye in feare, alas the while,  
lookynge when I must dye.

*Theseus*

My weapons all are rought from me,  
toberwith I me defende:  
Well, weale alwaye, I saye no moze,  
but thus wyll make an ende.  
This sayd, the bytter teares and sighes,  
his senses do oppresse:  
So that ye neuer sawe a man,  
in so mutche heauynesse.  
All this complaynt and wofull crye,  
kynges Mynes Daughters harde:  
And were in mynde, if that they might,  
to take him out of warde.  
And therof spake the elder mayde,  
vnto her sister deare:  
Dost thou not here this man quoth she,  
that makes this ruthfull cheare:  
I heare quoth she, and do betwyle  
this wofull wretches case:  
What shall we do to helpe alas,  
we haue no tyme noz space:  
Well, well: quoth Ariadne the,  
(that was the Elders name:)  
I wyll prouyde some spedye helpe,  
come what wyll of the same.  
And thou my sister Phedra deare,  
assist me as thou can:  
For I must either die therfore,  
or els enioye this man.



*and Ariadne.*

**Fo;** I do loue with suche a zeale,  
and with so seruent loue:  
**That** I can not abyde suche flames,  
I sweare by the Gods aboue.  
**This** sayd: the yonger sister saide,  
alas what wilt thou do:  
**Oh** sister deare, now rule thy selfe,  
and let suche folge goe.  
**Remember** thou kynge **Pyros** wyathe,  
remember thyne owne fame:  
**And** how the worlde wyll speake of thee  
both byllante and shame.  
**Oh** canst thou not content thy selfe,  
with thyne happye state:  
**Why** wilt thou cast awaye thy selfe:  
why dost thou thy wealth hate:  
**Dost** thou not knowe that no Realme is  
safe from kynge **Pyros** sight:  
**Dost** thou not know that all the worlde,  
is subiect to his might.  
**Whiche** way wilt thou thy selfe conuay:  
where he shall not thee finde:  
**Therefore** let this thy folge go  
and put it out of mynde.  
**Dost** thou not know y kynge are wonte  
longe handes to exercise:  
**Dost** thou not know that kynge are saide  
that they haue **Alynres** eyes.

**B. II.**

**Dost**

## *Theſeus*

Dost thou not knowe that *Pyrrhos* is  
of nature very fell:  
Thou knowest all his qualitties,  
I neede them not thee tell.  
But put the case thou haue thy will,  
marke well what I thee saye:  
He will at length forsake thee quite,  
and cast thee cleane awaye.  
Example take by *Hylla* saye,  
kynge *Pyrrus* Daughter deare,  
Who vpon promysse made to her,  
by *Pyrrhos* kynge o' ster.  
Who promysed to cary her  
with hym into his lande:  
If that she woulde her father geue,  
and Cittle to his hande.  
She did with haste and diligence,  
perfourme his whole request:  
But he alas vnto her payne,  
did frustrat his behest.  
Did not *Medea* by her meanes,  
yonge *Jasons* lyfe preserue:  
What curtesye and gentlenes  
did her good will deserue?  
She kept hym safe from enemies force,  
from *Dragons* kynge also,  
She slewe her Brother for his sake.  
and with hym she did goe

*and Ariadne.*

Yet he at length did call her of,  
suche is the Greekysh kynde:  
And wolte thou nowe a Greeke helene,  
who hath betwixt thy mynde:  
Do thou therfore suche foolyshe toys,  
out of thy mynde let flyde:  
And neuer let suche fancies force,  
thy vnconstant head to guide.  
This sayd, her sister wared rebde,  
and looked lowynge:  
As though that she displeased were,  
yet kepte it secretly.  
Least that her wyffer shoulde disclose,  
her pypis enterpyse:  
Whiche she wold not shuld come to pas  
in any maner wyse.  
And spake with silent voyce againe,  
what panges of vultulnesse  
Do I susteyne: what weepynge wayles  
can halfe ynoughe expresse:  
The flames that I do bydden keepe  
withyn my burnynge breast:  
Oh sister deare assiste thou me,  
that I maye get some rest.  
I do not wepe kynge Appos wyathe,  
I do it not regarde:  
So that I maye my Theseus  
delyuer out of warde.

## **Theseus**

What do I care, what men do saye,  
of mee, when I am gone:  
So that I neuer here their talke,  
and I shall leane to none.  
And so should I be happy then,  
whiche nowe vnbappy proue:  
Then shuld I saue my selfe which now  
do languysh, lost in loue.  
I do not care for Dynos might,  
as myghty men as he:  
Haue must their wyll of meaner men  
then Theseus and mee.  
I knowe that Dynos might is great,  
yet loue is greater muche:  
And such as feare his Ire or wyath,  
leane of to loue let such be.  
I knowe that kynges haue armes longe  
and that they can see farre:  
yet none is farre without their reach:  
they can not see so farre.  
I knowe that Dynos is both fell,  
and of great crueltie:  
And if that he be apprehende,  
I knowe that we must dye.  
But come or happe what wyll to mee,  
I care not for his might:  
For if that I might Theseus haue,  
I were a blessed wight.

**Thou**

*and Ariadne.*

Thou oughtest not (sister) to compare  
Pyrrhos with Theseus:  
The one is rough and hasty both:  
the other courteous.  
I knowe not what yonge Jason was:  
ne of what stocke he came:  
But if he dyd, as you repozte,  
he hath deserued blame.  
But sure I am that Theseus,  
his promys made, wyl keepe.  
And I twise happy should then be,  
in his sweete armes to sleepe.  
But I alone, do I, I saye  
alone attempt by sight:  
My loue to haue, and him enioye:  
is this so straunge a sight:  
Hath not such chaunces chaunced before  
for Louers to haue loye:  
Did not Dame Helene companys,  
sir Barys vnto Troie:  
Did not trusty Theseus,  
connaie Cariclea:  
Untyll they came with muche adoe,  
to Ethiopia.  
Where after many sturdey toymes,  
and burnynge broyllynge past:  
They did enioye eche other bothe,  
longe looked for at last.

B. lili.

I coulde

## Thefeus

I would reherse thee many woes, not  
if I had tyme and space:  
But all to longe I feare alas  
we tarye in this place:  
These wordes did quaple her sister well  
and sooth they go both two: So on  
Unto the Denne where Thefeus was,  
in myserye and wo:  
They call the Porter vnto them,  
and byd hym ope the doore:  
And in they go together both  
and stode Thefeus befoze:  
And Ariadne spake to hym,  
and said sir howe fare ye:  
Alas Madame but yll quoth hee,  
in this extremyte:  
And in suche soyte they talke awhyle,  
then did she speake agayne:  
And would you gladly sir quoth shee,  
be eased of this payne:  
If you wyll promys mee one thyng,  
and graunt mee my behest:  
That when I shall desyre you,  
you wyll graunt mes my request:  
We wyll seeke meanes all that we may  
soz to deluyner you:  
We wyll assiste you as we can,  
this Porter to subdue.

When

*and Ariadne.*

When Theseus harde so toyfull newes,  
he fell vpon his knee:  
And bid request her of her ayde,  
and that right speedelye.  
And I quoth he, wyll all thynges do,  
that you can me commander:  
I wyll be yours, all that I haue  
I put into your hande.  
Therfore Madame, helpe me I praye,  
that am your owne at wyll,  
Loe I am yours at all assages,  
to saue, or els to spyll.  
Therfore saye on Oh courteous Quene,  
here saye what is your wyll:  
Some scruple do to mee commaunde,  
and I wyll it sulspyll.  
Fought els I wyll of thee quoth shee,  
but that thou promys here:  
That thou wilt carpe vs with thee,  
into thy countrey ders.  
And that thou shalt mee take to wyfe,  
and lyue with me for ay:  
This sure, and thou delquered,  
shalt be this present daye.  
Oh Ladye saye, happye were I,  
yea thyse happye I saye:  
If you would mee accept your man,  
and your seruante alwaye.

## *Theſeus.*

And as for Marriage, I ſuppoſe,  
that you will not beſtow  
your ſelfe on mee: to whom here tofore,  
you haue not ſeene me knowe.  
And as for me, I do confeſſe,  
I am to baſe of blood:  
As that I maye attayne vnto  
ſo fayre a Queene and good.  
Alas, what is poore Theſeus:  
what is Cgeus ſonne.  
Whole fate is ſuche, that ſtill he muſt,  
his myſerie beſhew.  
But if you wyl vouchſafe to accept  
mee, for your man or ſlaue:  
As I that in your mercye lyes,  
either to loſe or ſaue.  
I were wutche bounde vnto your grace,  
I were muche bounde I ſaye:  
And I nowe am, and ſtill ſhalbe  
your owne, at eche aſſaye.  
Leaue of quoth ſhe theſe wordes, & ſwore  
I knowe well what thou arte:  
Come of, and do as I requeſt,  
and eaſe my payne and ſmarte  
And thou ſtrenght waye ſhalbe exempte  
from priſon and from warde:  
Do as I ſaye, if thou haſt ought  
vpon thy ſelfe regarde.

*Well.*



*and Ariadne.*

Well than quoth he, sith me your make  
you wyll bondsafe to haue:

Whiche would be glad, if you so would  
to be your page or slane.

Marke well and marke what I wyll say,  
myne aunswere thus shalbe,

Whiche I wyll styll auouche and keepe  
what so betwixt of me.

I sweare to you by all the Goddes,  
and powers in heauens bye:

By all the spyrytes that hell do rule,  
the earth and sterre skye.

That I wyll be your man and make,  
both now and eke for aye:

Styll you to loue, and none but you,  
if you saue me this daye.

And these also, that you do byngne,  
I wyll them styll defende:

From tyme to tyme as nede shalbe,  
vntyll my lyfe shall ende.

When in suche sorte his othe he made,  
Oh Lozde howe glad was shee,

Her blond dyd come, her hart dyd leape,  
she gan to waite merue.

Then by and by they take in hande,  
this Monster for to kyll:

And Walles of Peere & witch they make  
to gyue to hym his fell.

*Done*

## *The felus.*

None was so earnest in this worke,  
none laboured so muche:  
As Ariadne did, as whome  
these wisshed Joyes did tntche.  
And to be shoyte, with travell great,  
and with great toyle and payne:  
This disguised Beast, this Feend so sel  
was murdered and slayne.  
Then speede they make vnto their ships  
whyle as it was yet daye,  
And Phebe had not with her starres  
chased the lyght awaye.  
With haste they get a boorde eche one,  
they labour all the nyght:  
All do put to their helppinge handes,  
to further this their flight.  
Untyll Aurora did them tell,  
that Phebus was at hande:  
And therby sounde gesse that they  
approched to some Lande.  
In dede these Damselles could not well  
abide the ragynge seas:  
Therfore they labour to get lande,  
theron them selues to ease.  
And then aboute the tyme that Sole,  
approched to the place:  
Wher from the blest heauens toppe,  
he shewes his shynnyng face.

They

*and Ariadne*

They leane their ships, and find a Land  
Where pleasures do abound:  
Where they lye downe to take their rest  
vpon that fruitfull ground.  
And those that sleepe did not oppresse,  
they gather flowers gayer:  
Others did walke into the woods,  
to dye their cares awaye.  
Nothing there was in all the Lande,  
that could not moue their spirites:  
Their eyes, their eares and senses all,  
moued them to brane delytes.  
But Ariadne had good cause  
not to haue slepte at all:  
Although it were to her vnknown,  
what should to her befall.  
For Theseus, Oh traytour lyke,  
when she so surely slepte:  
Awaye from her as secretely  
as he could, from her crepte.  
He gathered his men to hym,  
that wandzed in the woode:  
Where, rangyng here, and walking there,  
as eche of them thought good.  
And hastily they went aboord,  
and lancht into the deepe:  
And left not one with her a shoze,  
where she alas did sleepe.  
Forget.

## *Theseus*

Forgettynge quyte her benefytes,  
whiche she to hym had done:  
And howe she had her countrey losse,  
and parentes left eche one.  
But so soone as she did awake,  
and felt that he was gone:  
She starteth vp, and stares aboute,  
but men she seeth none.  
She ronnethe streight vnto the place,  
where as the shypps did stande:  
Where she a farre into the sea,  
did looke from Parus lande.  
And when she had espyed the shyppes,  
where they awayne did sayle.  
She wept and wange her hands apace  
but what did teares anayle?  
And so soone as her teares did cease,  
amyd her myserye:  
She byd begyn with piteous playnt  
so, to extoll her crye.  
What tyme quod she, this Theseus  
by cruell fates constraynt:  
Within my father Mynos Realme,  
did vtter his complaynt.  
yn daunger with dyspayre,  
a lothsome lyfe he led:  
With scaldyng sighes and bytter teares  
despyngne to be dead.

But

*and Ariadne*

But I poore wretch, alas I dyd  
laye playsters to his soze:  
That he had neuer after cause,  
to weepe or wayle no moze.  
I dyd repayze his crased shypes,  
I dyd him treasure gyue:  
I dyd my selfe bequeath to hym,  
till with hym for to lyue.  
I bancketted this Craptours men,  
I vittayled them with foze:  
I shewed them suche pleasure, as  
they neuer had befoze.  
I dyd my loued countrey lothe,  
my parentes I forsooke:  
To go with hym vnto his land,  
all paynes I vnderooke.  
And he lyke wyle dyd swere to mee,  
by Goddes and heauens bye:  
That he alwayes wolde be my man,  
with me to lyue and dye.  
Yet he my merytes dothe,  
with falsshed recompence:  
Whiche lone and loyaltye he doth  
dispytefullye dispence.  
Amyd a Forrest wyld and wyde,  
for Beares or Wolves a pray  
He leaueth me a sleepe, and he  
falsely doth go his waye.

**His**

*Theſeus*

His truſteſſe trueth, his treaſon tryed,  
his fayth, his falſhed founde:  
And I a wofull wretche in care,  
as any on the grounde.  
To you ye Goddes, I do complayne,  
to you this tale I tell:  
Sithe ſe be hath your names blaſphemb  
that he may hange in hell.  
Reuenge my cauſe, ſithe none but you  
my whole eſtate do knowe:  
That you be Goddes, and wyll reuenge  
to Theſeus do ſhowe.  
And you alſo that here of mee,  
that be of Iudgement pure:  
Beware to ſiſſe in Fancies ſloub,  
or els to drowne be ſure.  
Beware, be wyſe, example take,  
by Ariadnes payne:  
Whiche helpyng hym who helples was  
ſhe helples both remayne.  
This ſayd: the Goddes did her tranſlate  
into the ſtarrye ſkye:  
And gaue her place amonge the ſtarres,  
where ſhe ſhall neuer die.

**FINIS. Th. Vn.**

